

DECLASSIFIED

Return to
E A 2205
1/18/76BRITISH EMBASSY,
WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

TOP SECRET.

January 13th, 1947.

Ref. 7/-/47.

Dear Sir,

I would like to bring to your attention the question of the German nuclear physicists who were taken to England in 1945 by agreement between the United States and British authorities concerned and whose disposal was the subject of considerable discussion in the latter part of 1945 and January 1946 between the War Department, the Manhattan District, the Joint Staff Mission and this Embassy. It was eventually arranged that nine of these scientists, Hahn, Heisenberg, Von Laue, Weizsacker, Bagge, Korsching, Wirtz, Bothe and Stansman should be sent back to Germany and kept together under suitable arrangements at Göttingen where they would be allowed to work on an approved programme. These arrangements were agreed in detail with the Manhattan District (see my letters to General Groves of January 3rd, 7th, 11th and 31st and February 2nd under reference 3/-/46).

2. As you probably know, there are also schemes, entirely independent of the above, which are administered jointly by the authorities of the two countries for the employment of Germany scientists both on defence and civil research in the United Kingdom and the United States of America respectively. Applications for the services of particular scientists are exchanged here by the Joint Staff Mission and the Joint Intelligence

/Objectives

Mr. E. A. Guillon,
Room 220,
United States Department of State,
Washington, D.C.

THE DIVISION OF INTELLIGENCE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RECEIVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY
FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION
DATE 1/18/76
Co-ordinate with Dept of State,
CIA and UK
Safecase
REVIEWED/1

DECLASSIFIED

DECLASSIFIED

-2-

Objectives Agency in the War Department, and also, I believe, in London.

3. In view of the arrangement referred to in the first paragraph of this letter, the British authorities were somewhat surprised to receive requests in recent months for the employment in the United States of America of two of the scientists in question, Hahn and Heisenberg. On each occasion I took the matter up with General Groves, who informed me that, in the opinion of the Manhattan District, these individuals should not be employed in the United States of America, and that the arrangements for their employment at Göttingen should be preserved. More recently a third application has come forward for the employment of Weizsacher.

4. In all three of these cases the authorities in London have replied through the usual channels that they are reluctant to consider the applications until it is clear that they have been put forward with the concurrence of all the American authorities concerned, including the atomic energy authorities.

5. You may wish to look into this matter with a view to co-ordinating any future requests on your side.

Yours sincerely

R. H. L.
Roger L. L.

DECLASSIFIED